

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Xander Bogaerts "Dare to Dream" Foundation for island youth launched

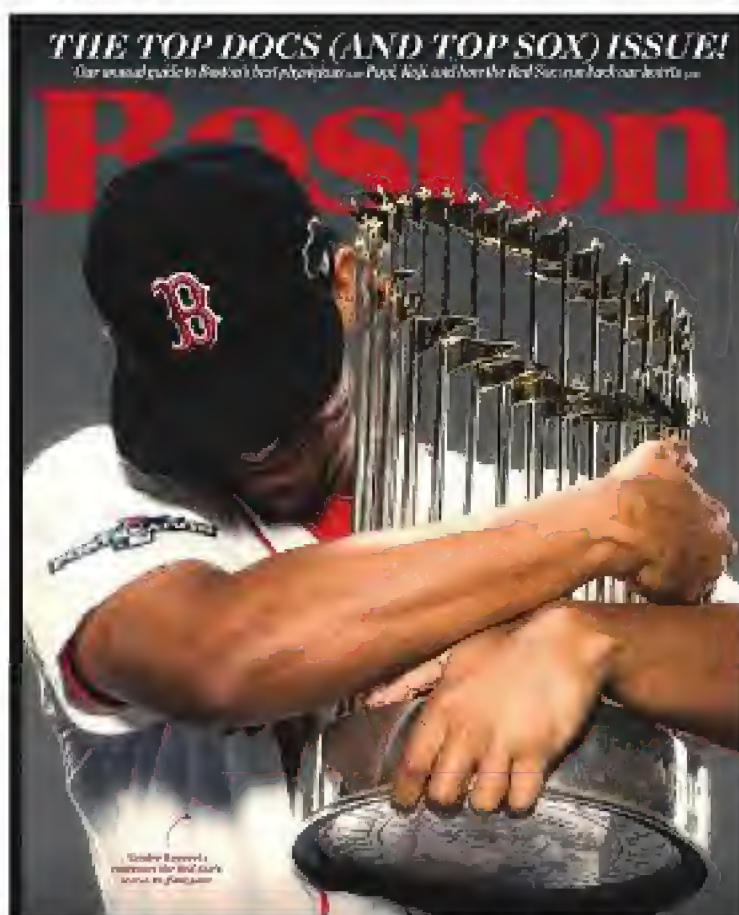


Xander and Sandra with Roland Croes of SETAR and Vanessa Hollander of Balashi



Xander Bogaerts Dare to Dream Foundation for island kids

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's native son, Xander Bogaerts, has dominated local and U.S. sports headlines in the last few months as one of the youngest and freshest rookies in history to be part of the post-season playoffs, only two months after coming up from the minors. When the Boston Red Sox won the 2013 World Series on October 30th, after being last place in 2012, they were the second Major League team to ever accomplish such a feat. Many sports-



Xander of the cover of Boston Magazine

writers pointed to the enthusiastic young rookie from Aruba for sparking the team's spirit and infusing the veteran players with his fresh face and attitude, as well as supreme poise under pressure.

Xander returned to Aruba shortly after, to a hero's welcome. He has been enjoying time with family, but also considering how he can most positively deploy his new found fame for the betterment of Aruba and is-

land youth.

On Tuesday afternoon, November 26, in the neighborhood center where he grew up, Centro di Bario Lago Heights, Xander and his mother, Sandra Brown, announced their foundation, Xander Bogaerts, Dare to Dream, is now active.

Xander's mother has been a social worker on Aruba for some time. As a single mother raising two boys and a daughter, she is well aware of the financial impediments for some families in providing the best opportunities for their talented children.

Dare to Dream is mainly targeting island youth wishing to participate in Little League Baseball, but whose parents have not the financial means or transport to allow what may be a potential Major League player develop their talent. The foundation plans to finance equipment for those who are in need, as well as arranging transportation to the various ball fields where games are taking place, for those who are without.

Ms. Brown informed the media that Dare to Dream does not plan to limit their assistance only to youngsters interested in baseball. Youth who demonstrate talent for other sports or the arts, or need assistance with tutoring for school, but parents cannot afford the extra lessons, are also eligible for financial assistance from the foundation. "We urge parents to be the best parents you can be," she stated, "see to your child's talents and scholastic needs and please apply to the foundation for assistance."

Families can apply for sports equipment, transport, or tutoring tuition by sending their information and details of what is required to XBdaretodream@gmail.com. A board will review and evaluate the requests. Social workers, school teachers, and in regards to sports financing, team coaches, will be consulted in the final decision regarding grants.

Continued on page 3

Israel's Peres: Mideast peace 'urgent' but possible

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Israeli President Shimon Peres said yesterday that peace with the Palestinians was urgent and possible amid faltering negotiations between the two sides.

Peres, speaking during a visit to Mexico City, said he welcomed the new round of talks, revived in July with the aim of reaching an agreement within nine months.

"We weren't born to be enemies, we weren't born to rule other people, we weren't born to take land from anybody else; we were born with the call for peace," he said after talks with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

"We agreed that the answer to the conflict should be based on the two-state solution, two states for two peoples. Peace is urgent, I believe, but possible

as well."

The peace talks, which resumed after intense diplomacy from US Secretary of State John Kerry, have faltered amid Israeli plans to build new settlements.

The construction plans prompted Palestinian negotiators to offer their resignations in November, but president Mahmud Abbas has yet to accept them.

Peres's trip to Mexico focuses on trade and the president, who traveled here with an 80-strong business delegation, signed education, culture, science and trade deals with Pena Nieto.

The Israeli president was due to later meet Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim, the world's second richest man.

Storm upsets U.S. travel

NEW YORK -- Heavy rain and high wind along the U.S. East Coast are tying up air traffic for holiday travelers as the organizers of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wait to decide whether the event's trademark balloons will fly.

A storm system is bringing wind-blown rain today to cities including Boston and New York. It's also expected to drop more than 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow on the Appalachian Mountains and inland areas from Pennsylvania to New England.

Winds may gust to 60 miles (95 kilometers) per hour along the Massachusetts coast, according to the National Weather Service. Sustained winds of as much as 30 mph are expected in New York with

gusts of 45, the agency said. Gusts may linger, bringing difficult conditions for crews controlling balloons for tomorrow's parade in Manhattan, Rob Carolan, owner of Hometown Forecast Services Inc. in Nashua, New Hampshire, said yesterday.

"The decision on whether the giant balloons will join the lineup is made based on real-time, on-the-scene weather data, not via forecasts," said Holly Thomas, a spokeswoman for the 87th Macy's parade. "We are closely monitoring the weather as we do each year."

The storm triggered winter storm warnings and advisories from Maine to Georgia as it roared north, according to the weather service.



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**Don't miss this great dinner/
show deal at the Divi!**



Beef Wellington at the carving station

ORANJESTAD -- One of Aruba's most popular all-inclusive resorts has recently gone through some stunning renovations, particularly in the public areas, and resort management is eager to show off their sleek, contemporary look.

It is long known that the culinary staff of all Divi Properties have very high standards and noted executive chefs, such as Gerard Coste at their flagship Divi Resort. One of the first to open at the Manchebo Beach "Low Rise" area, it has been a popular retreat for vacationers for decades, and home to some of the island's most famous restaurants, such as the Red Parrot.

Resort executives were very pleased to unveil the sparkling, newly renovated Pelican Terrace, home to their attractive buffets. Greater convenience is offered by several new stations including a separate salad bar, soup station, side dishes and casseroles, and dessert bar, with less waiting time. A diversity of main courses are also staged at varying counters, for pasta and other freshly sautéed dishes of the day, as well as a carving and grill station for BBQ, or other specialties such as a succulent Beef Wellington. The soup station offered both



Assorted petit fours and fresh fruits for dessert

Aruban Pumpkin Soup and a Creamy Bouillabaisse, an perfect example of that contrast of local and international cuisine that makes up their menu.

The choices are dazzling and change daily, for those who love the buffet concept of all-you-can-eat from several options. Best of all, one does not need to be a guest of the re-

sort to indulge in this very reasonably priced feast! Tickets can be purchased at the Divi front desk for only \$30 per person for complete access to the buffet, which includes one drink with your meal. Additional tickets can be purchased for more beverages from the bar.

Continued on page 4



**Foundation for Women
in Difficulty celebrates
18 years**



Mrs. Koolman addresses the audience with Mrs. Spellen looking on

ORANJESTAD -- At the Cas di Cultura here an evening of information was held in connection with the International Day of Domestic Violence. At the same time they celebrated the 18 years of existence of our local Foundation for men in Difficulty. The Foundation for Women in Difficulty decided to use the occasion to make the community aware of what is happening. The theme for this year is "Let's break the cycle of violence." The Foundation had several speakers talk about very informative and relevant topics during the information evening. The Foundation for Women in Difficulty has a care center where women confronting difficulty can go for help. This is where women can stay and get guidance until they can get back into the community. Mrs. Ivonne Spellen is the President of the Foundation with several members giving help to these women in difficulty. The Foundation also has two social workers working with them. Many women come to the Foundation voluntarily or are sent by a foundation working on their case.

The Foundation receives an

average of 15 to 20 clients per year who need help. Women receive a contract to stay in the care home. The contract depends on the severity that the woman is in. The contract may be for one month or up to three months. The mother may come with her children if the child is a girl and is dependent of her mother she may stay as long as needed; in case the child is a boy, he may stay with his mother until the age of 14, after that the foundation will evaluate if he may stay longer.

The social worker works with the case, notifying the woman's employer to let him/her know what the situation is with the employer. They need to also inform the child(ren)'s school. The social worker helps guide the woman as to difficult decision she must take.

In the past year the Foundation not only receives cases of abuse, but also cases of different types of problems. Some of these problems have to do with problems with siblings, problems with parents, divorce problems, psychological problems and financial problems.

Continued on page 4

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Xander Bogaerts "Dare to Dream" Foundation.

Continued from page 1



The board of the Dare to Dream Foundation consists of Co-Presidents Sandra Brown and Xander Bogaerts, Treasurer Caroline Broeksema, and members Jar Bogaerts, Gerrit Martis, and Collins John.

Sponsoring Dare to Dream

in their work are SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company and Balashi Malta, a natural, non-alcoholic energy beverage from Aruba's national brewery. They will also sponsor events for public awareness, where island youth will have the opportunity to meet and interact with Xander Bogaerts. He will also participate in various fundraising actions for his foundation.

The first such event will take place on Sunday, December 8, beginning at 8:30 AM at the Lago Heights Community Center. On that day, the ball field adjacent will be re-christened the "Xander Bogaerts Ball Field." Festivities will last throughout the morning, with various activities for all ages, along with booths offering snacks and beverages.

Men must become more aware of domestic violence



ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Social Affairs, Paul Croes was one of the speakers at the recent information evening held at the Cas di Cultura in connection with the International Day of Domestic Violence. The local Foundation for Women in Difficulty used the occasion to celebrate 18 years of existence and at the same time to bring about more awareness as to what is happening on Aruba. Paul Croes, in his speech, indicated that it is very important that men be aware of the problem of domestic violence. Domestic violence in most cases is caused by men; hence it is important that they be aware of the situation, according to Croes. One of three women in the world faces domestic violence. These figures make it a must that foundations such as ours get support from the government, but also from the entire community.

The Minister appealed to everyone to help break the cycle of violence, as well as the cycle of silence of those cases that remain unreported. We need to help and support victims of violence by showing the abuser his errors. Aruba has a responsibility and we must begin to focus on these cases as

crimes. We cannot be tolerant regarding the abuse against women in our community. The abuser needs to understand that he is not only affecting the victim but a person who is a grand power for our community. He is also affecting young people aspiring to become great contributors for the development of our society.

The Minister's message was directed, for the most part, to

the men of our community. His message was very clear to men that they must remember that each one of us have a mother and may even have a daughter or sister who may be in a similar predicament. We men need to be the example and not an abuser. It is important that we seek help and respect the rights and dignity of every woman, according to Minister Paul Croes.

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Foundation for Women in Difficulty...

Continued from page 2



Every client gets a file and all information remains strictly confidential. To date the Foundation for Women in Difficulty has 103 cases of varying nature.

Mrs. Dora Koolman-Croes (former first lady of Aruba, wife of former Gover-

nor), who is honorable protector of the Foundation was also present and gave an inspiring speech. A woman must make another woman aware of her value and dignity; no human being can give that to another human being. Mrs. Koolman-Croes

indicated that it is time we raise our sons to respect all persons and to learn the value of everyone. Our daughters must learn that they are not inferior to men. If these values are inculcated in our sons and daughters from a young age, we would not have the situation we face today, according to Dora Koolman-Croes. The former First lady believes that women can make our world a better place to live in.

Dora Koolman-Croes appealed to all present to support the Foundation either financially or in any other way that they can. If we create healthy people we are creating a healthy country, according to the former First Lady.

Dora Koolman-Croes also presented a donation to help the Foundation to continue their very worthy work for our community.

Taxi drivers received a warm welcome at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



PALM BEACH – Tuesday November 26, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba invited all taxi drivers to the prestigious hotel. Every taxi driver received a nice gift and were also offered a tour in the hotel in order to get to know what the hotel has to offer.

Taxi drivers are the first

ones to be in contact with our tourists and therefore it's very important for them to know as much as they can, to give the best service possible.

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba would like to thank all taxi drivers who were present and also thank them in advance for a tremendous job done.

Great dinner/ show deal at the Divi!

Continued from page 2



Coco Rico Dancers

The Pelican Terrace is open for dinner from 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM. The price of dinner also includes mellow entertainment from a variety of fine Aruban performers throughout the meal, as well as an exciting show beginning at 9:00 PM. It varies from Salsa shows and lessons to the Coco Rico

Dancers and their thrilling new Carnival program.

If you have been curious about the Divi's all inclusive fare, this is an excellent way to sample their daily offerings, combined with a most enjoyable and entertaining evening that doesn't stop with dessert.



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Weather prognostic valid until this afternoon 5:00 p.m.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy to mostly sunny with a chance of an isolated shower mainly during pre-dawn to morning hours.

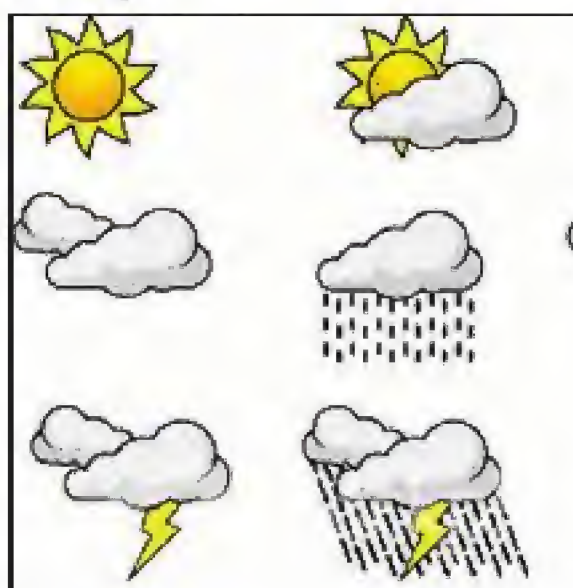
Maximum temperature 31 centigrade y minimum temperature 25 centigrade.

Sunrise 06:44 am sunset 06:12 pm.

WIND: Moderate to a strong easterly breeze 14 knots gusting up to 24 knots.

GENERAL SITUATION: An increase in low-level moisture can induce a couple of passing showers.

MARINE CONDITIONS: Wave direction will be east-northeast with wave-heights between 6 to 8 feet.



TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: Nothing of importance.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEK: The remainder of the week shows drier, but cannot exclude the possibility of a local shower. Winds will stay around normal.

Temperature will fluctuate around normal. observed temperature (centigrade) and rainfall (mm) in the last 24 hours:

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University Students of Tourism Management & International Business excel at Summit on 'Leading Innovation with Education'

ORANJESTAD -- If you think about contemporary higher education the University of Aruba offers semesters based on agrarian calendars even though few to none of its students are actively engaged in farming. The semesters and courses are designed in 15-week blocks of times. Because they're working with 20 to 200 students in one class, they orient the material and the rate of learning around the middle of the class, oftentimes presented in a linear fashion.

Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson, professor and scientific researcher of innovation and sustainability at the University of Aruba, argues that within the current global landscape of tectonic shifts towards systemic innovation and sustainability, one has to question whether existing philosophies and practices in higher education



suffice in building resilience, and developing the requisite quality of human capital that is required in managing these tectonic shifts. "The importance of this question is underscored not only by global developments, but more importantly, by the changing local landscape, in which new social,

technological, economic and ecological 'currents' are slowly shaping towards building a resilient, knowledge-based, entrepreneurial economy", according to Peterson.

Higher Education & Human Capital

A recent World Economic Forum (WEF, 2013) report

concludes: "The key for the future of any country and any institution lies in the talent, skills and capabilities of its people. With talent shortages projected to become more severe, it will be imperative to turn our attention to how these shortages can be met in the short term and prevented in the long term. For the individual, as well as for societies and economies as a whole, investing in human capital is critical; even more so in the context of sustainability."

The implications for higher education and the labor market are thus profound, in which several strategic questions resonate, including: is the existing system of higher education suitable for building sustainable value in a changing world? How do we transform our higher education into 'higher learning' for leveraging our human capital and assets? How

can we incorporate innovation and entrepreneurship into education in order to prepare and build a new generation ready to lead a sustainably dynamic future?

These questions are by no means unique to Aruba, although its 'islandness' does emphasize the importance and urgency, according to Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson.

Recently, the United Nations took the step to promote entrepreneurship as a centerpiece of economic growth and stability around the world. The objectives outlined in the UN resolution align closely with those of Global Entrepreneurship Week, the world's largest celebration of entrepreneurship that was held between Nov. 18th and 24th for the sixth consecutive year.

Continued on page 11

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US telling airlines to stay safe in East China Sea

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is advising all US airlines to take steps to stay safe amid fresh tensions in the East China Sea as they seek clarification about Beijing's newly-declared air zone over disputed islands.

"We're attempting to determine whether the new rules apply to civil aviation, commercial air flight," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

"In the meantime, US air carriers are being advised to take all steps they consider necessary to operate safely in the East China Sea region."

But she would not be drawn on whether US officials were advising commercial airlines to advise Chinese authorities of any flight plans which take them over the islands.

"We're still looking into and evaluating ... what this means, and obviously, we want to advise accordingly."

China demanded over the weekend that aircraft submit flight plans when traversing its newly-declared air defense

identification zone (ADIZ) which includes the disputed islands, known as Senkaku in Tokyo and Diaoyu in Beijing.

The move has triggered a storm of diplomatic protest and in a show of force two American B-52 bombers overflew the area on Monday.

In a statement, Chinese defense ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng said: "The Chinese military monitored the entire process, carried out identification in a timely manner, and ascertained the type of US aircraft."

The Chinese ADIZ requires aircraft to provide their flight plan, declare their nationality and maintain two-way radio communication, or face defensive emergency measures.

The United States pressed its concerns over China's newly declared air defense zone.

Vice President Joe Biden will confront the Chinese leadership about the controversial issue during a pre-planned trip to Beijing next week, senior administration officials said.

Two dead in Brazil World Cup stadium accident

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Two workers were killed yesterday when a crane collapsed at the stadium which will host the opening game of next year's World Cup, dealing a fresh blow to Brazil's troubled build-up to the tournament.

Police in Sao Paulo said the workers at the Arena Corinthians stadium were crushed to death as they scrambled to meet a December 31 set by football's governing body FIFA to complete work at the venue.

A third worker was rushed to hospital with injuries after the accident, which brought a shocked response from FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

"I'm deeply saddened by the tragic death of workers @Corinthians arena today," Blatter said on Twitter. "Our heartfelt condolences are with the families."

FIFA, which has faced recent scrutiny over worker conditions at under-construction venues for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, later said safety standards for workers were "a top priority."

Brazilian media said the accident happened when a crane lifting a 500-ton lattice structure to the top of the stands toppled over, bringing down three metal structures.

Firefighters, ambulances and a police helicopter were at the scene, which was cordoned off. The company overseeing the construction work immediately halted activities at the site and said it would investigate.

The stadium is one of 12 World Cup venues planned for the tournament, which has Brazil has been struggling to overhaul its sagging infrastructure in time for the finals.

KANO, (AFP) - Sharia enforcers called Hisbah wait for permission from their superiors to destroy thousands of bottles of beer outside northern Nigeria's largest city of Kano on November 27, 2013. The Hisbah destroyed over 240,000 bottles of beer along with over 8,000 litres of local brew called "Bুরুkutu" at a ceremony attended by Hisbah chiefs and government officials as part of sharia enforcement. Kano has banned the sales and consumption of alcohol since 2001 when it reintroduced strict sharia Islamic law in the predominantly muslim state.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Change in opening hours on Friday!

SETAR wishes to inform that due to an employees' event, opening hours of all **Teleshops** and **SETAR Store** will be changed to the following on:

FRIDAY, November 29th

Opening hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Main Office at Seroe Blanco on:

FRIDAY, November 29th

Opening hours: 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We kindly request for everyone to take notice of this change to avoid any inconveniences

Honduras roiled by claims of fraud in presidential vote

TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - Opposition charges of fraud and fresh protests roiled Honduras yesterday as the official count in the country's presidential elections showed a clear victory for conservative Juan Orlando Hernandez over leftist Xiomara Castro.

The electoral tribunal has said Hernandez lead was unbeatable, scoring 34 percent compared to the 29 percent of his rival, with 68 percent of polling stations tallied.

Castro and her husband, deposed ex-president Manuel Zelaya, allege that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal manipulated 19 percent of the votes to favor Hernandez.

They gave 48 hours for the situation to be resolved.

"We will defend the will of the people as it was expressed at the polls," Castro wrote in a Twitter posting.

"We will confirm our victory, and if it were the opposite, we also would acknow-

ledge it," Zelaya said on Twitter, warning: "Nobody should speculate; we will look at the dimensions of the fraud -- and what was properly done."

Tensions were running high as the political standoff again spread to the streets with protests by about 400 of students.

"No to fraud!" they shouted during a demonstration in support of Castro outside the gates of a university east of Tegucigalpa.

On Tuesday, police beat and used tear gas against about 800 pro-Castro protesters. About 100 police in helmets and riot gear used gas and then truncheons to beat the chanting youths and send them scrambling.

Students fled from police, running to their nearby campus, and at the entrance gates authorities lobbed more tear gas at them. The university called off classes for two days as post-electoral tensions deepened.

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Nicaragua takes Colombia boundary dispute to UN court; Colombia recalls ambassador

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Nicaragua started proceedings at the International Court of Justice against Colombia for allegedly violating its sovereign rights and maritime zones, the UN court said yesterday.

The application filed by Nicaragua at the ICJ in the

Hague raises a long-running border dispute between the two countries.

Nicaragua said Colombia had failed to respect a ruling by the ICJ on November 19, 2012 which awarded sovereignty over a group of Caribbean islands to Bogota,

while granting a large swathe of sea territory to Managua.

In its application Nicaragua requested the ICJ "adjudge and declare that Colombia is in breach of its obligation not to use or threaten to use force... its obligation not to violate Nicaragua's maritime zones as



well as Nicaragua's sovereign rights and jurisdiction in these zones".

Following the November 2012 ruling Colombia refused to recognize the jurisdiction, saying the country's territorial and marine boundaries should be established through treaties, and not sentences handed down by the court in the Hague.

Meanwhile, Colombia yesterday raised the stakes in a maritime dispute with Nicaragua, recalling its ambassador for consultations after a contentious ruling by the International Court of Justice.

Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin in Bogota said her country took the decision as it cannot accept the court's November 19 judgment that

confirmed Colombia's sovereignty over the San Andres archipelago in the Caribbean, but redrew marine boundaries in a way that favored Nicaragua.

"What we are saying is that we cannot apply" the ruling, Holguin told reporters in the capital. "For these reasons and the hostility of Nicaragua we have taken the decision to recall our ambassador for consultations."

The case has poisoned bilateral relations over the past year.

The ambassador, Luz Stella Jara, is expected back in Bogota today to explain why it has been "impossible to have a dialogue with Nicaragua," added Holguin, deploring Managua's decision to go to the ICJ.

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Tel: 586-3888 Fax: 586-8883

South Beach Centre,
Palm Beach 56, Aruba.

CHOICE: A

Welcome Fruit Punch
Appetizer
Vegetable Spring Roll
Crab Rangoon

Entrée

Classic Pepper Steak
Mandarin Orange Chicken
BBQ Roast Pork
Vegetable Fried Rice/ White Rice

Dessert

Ice Cream
with cookie

Price per person:
\$24.00

Plus 15% service charge
& 1.5% Tax

(For 30 or more persons,
Buffet Style Served)

CHOICE: B

Welcome Fruit Punch
Appetizer
Vegetable Spring Roll
Crab Rangoon

Entrée

Salied Thailand Crispy Shrimp
Mandarin Orange Chicken
BBQ Roast Pork
Vegetable Fried Rice/ White Rice

Dessert

Ice Cream
with cookie

Price per person:
\$27.00

Plus 15% service charge
& 1.5% Tax

(For 30 or more persons,
Buffet Style Served)

CHOICE: C

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Belgium close to agreeing euthanasia for children

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Eleven years after making euthanasia legal for adults, Belgium came a step closer to extending mercy-killing to terminally-ill children Wednesday after an intense public debate on the ethical issues at stake.

A proposed draft bill to extend the practice to minors is expected to be put to the vote in the two houses of parliament in the coming months after its approval by the Senate's justice and social affairs committee.

The draft bill was approved by a majority of political parties both in office and in the opposition, with the ex-

ception of the centrist Christian Democrats.

A vote in favour would see Belgium follow in the footsteps of neighbour The Netherlands, the first country to legalise mercy killings for people suffering from incurable illnesses, but which allows euthanasia for children over 12.

If adopted, the legislation is expected to concern no more than 10 to 15 cases a year based on statements from doctors and nurses that the practice already exists outside the law for terminally-ill youngsters in physical distress.

Be on alert for World Cup dengue risk: expert

PARIS (AFP) - A leading expert in infectious diseases on Wednesday urged Brazil to act aggressively to head off a risk from dengue fever at next year's World Cup.

The risk from the dangerous mosquito-borne virus will be greatest at matches played in three northeastern cities, Fortaleza, Natal and Salvador, said Simon Hay, a fellow at Oxford University.

In other cities, the dengue season is likely to have peaked before the June 12-July 13 tournament, he said.

"Unfortunately, the risk remains high during these months in the northeast," Hay said in a commentary in the prestigious scientific journal Nature.

"The Brazilian authorities should implement aggressive vector control in April and May, particularly around the northern stadiums, to decrease the number of dengue-transmitting mosquitoes.

Dengue, induced by a virus transmitted in the mosquito's bite, can produce a flu-like illness that may need hospitalisation. Sometimes a lethal complication, severe dengue, can develop. There is no vaccine.

People heading to areas where dengue is a problem should use insect repellents,

wear clothing that covers the arms and legs, especially during early morning and late afternoon, and choose accommodation with screened windows, doors and air conditioning, said Hay.

He also pointed to a theoretical risk for Brazilians -- that outsiders bring in types of the dengue virus against which the host population has low immunity.

Health watchdogs in all countries with dengue can contribute to the solution by using online monitoring tools, such as DengueMap and Google's Dengue Trends, which records outbreaks of the disease, he said.

On November 20, Brazil said at least 573 people had died from dengue so far this year, compared with 292 in 2012 and 472 in 2011.

The highest death toll was in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais (116), followed by Sao Paulo state (72), Goias (58), Ceara in the northeast (54) and Rio de Janeiro state (48).

The total number of serious cases reported so far this year reached 6,566, leading authorities in 157 cities to declare a state of alert. They include Salvador and Fortaleza, as well as Rio de Janeiro and Manaus.

Modern life 'turning people off sex'



Money worries and the distractions of social media mean people are having sex less frequently, researchers say.

A once-a-decade poll of 15,000 Britons found those aged 16-44 were having sex fewer than five times a month.

The figure compared with more than six times a month on the last two occasions when the official National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles was carried out, in 1990-91 and 1999-2001.

The study's authors say modern life may be having an impact on libidos.

Dr Cath Mercer, from University College London, said: "People are worried about their jobs, worried about money. They are not in the mood for sex."

"But we also think modern technologies are behind the trend too. People have tablets and smartphones and they are taking them into the bedroom, using Twitter and Facebook, answering emails."

Smoking and Oral Health

Smoking leads to dental problems, including:

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- * Increased build up of plaque and tartar on the teeth
- * Increased loss of bone within the jaw
- * Increased risk of leukoplakia, white patches inside the mouth
- * Increased risk of developing gum disease, a leading cause of tooth loss
- * Delayed healing process following tooth extraction, periodontal treatment, or oral surgery
- * Lower success rate of dental implant procedures
- * Increased risk of developing oral cancer



Judge refuses retrial for OJ Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US judge rejected Tuesday a request by jailed former sports star O.J. Simpson for a retrial over his conviction for a 2007 casino robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas.

A lawyer for the disgraced ex-American footballer and actor, who was infamously acquitted of murdering his ex-wife in 1994, said the 66-year-old will appeal the ruling.

Simpson, who was jailed for up to 33 years for the September 13, 2007 incident, testified in seeking a retrial in May on grounds that his long-time lawyer Yale Galanter had botched his defense.

On Tuesday, Clark County Judge Linda Marie Bell, who heard his testimony over five days in May, refused his petition for a retrial.

Simpson is serving nine to 33 years in a Nevada state penitentiary after being convicted in October 2008 of armed robbery, assault and kidnapping over the robbery, which was caught on security camera footage.



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Host of Expo 2020: Dubai, a city of rapid development

DUBAI (AFP) - Dubai on Wednesday beat off opposition from Brazil, Russia and Turkey to win the right to host the 2020 World Expo.

The Gulf city beat Russia's Ekaterinberg in the final round of voting to clinch a prestigious event that is credited with delivering a huge boost to tourism and business

with 47. There was one abstention.

The four candidate cities, which also included Brazil's Sao Paulo and Turkey's Izmir, had pulled out all the stops during 20 minute presentations before voting by the 168 member states of the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE), which oversees

centre.

The city state, one of seven sheikhdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates, is now home to more than two million people, mostly foreigners, compared with only 15,000 inhabitants in the 1950s.

Unlike Abu Dhabi, the leading member of the UAE

It is home to the world's third-largest international airport, handling nearly 58 million passengers in 2012, as it has become a travel hub linking the West with Asia and Australasia.

On top of that, it recently opened a new airport, touted to be the world's largest when completed, with capacity planned to hit 160 million passengers annually.

The new airport is adjacent to Jebel Ali port, the largest harbour in the Middle East and one of the world's top container terminals. It feeds a sprawling free zone that cements Dubai's status as a major stop for transit trade.

Over the past decade, Dubai has also multiplied its tourism projects, many of which are larger than life. These included not just sea-side resorts, but also an indoor ski slope defying the scorching desert heat.

Dubai also built Burj Khalifa, the world tallest tower standing 828-metres (2,717-feet) high.

The rise in tourism went hand-in-hand with a rapid growth in construction, including man-made palm-shaped islands and a cluster of islands taking the shape of the world's map.

But the emirate was hit hard in 2009 by the global fi-

nanical crisis, which dried up international finance available for the grandiose projects.

And a property sector that had grown at breakneck speed over five years ended up taking a free fall, shedding half of its value, and large groups linked to government faced mountains of debt.

The emirate's economy was buoyed by Abu Dhabi, its deep-pocketed partner, which extended a multi-billion-dollar lifeline to the troubled neighbour.

But after a limited contraction, Dubai's economy got back on its feet, banking on its strong fundamentals,



in the host city.

Dubai, the economic and transport hub of The United Arab Emirates, won 116 votes in the third round, comfortably beating Ekaterinberg

the organisation of the events.

The glitzy Gulf emirate of Dubai, transformed itself over 50 years from a sleepy port town to a regional travel, trade and financial services

that sits on a large wealth of petroleum, Dubai has dwindling oil resources and has worked to develop non-oil industries, diversifying into services.



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Australian surf deadlier than bushfires, sharks



SYDNEY (AFP) - The Australian surf kills more people than bushfires, cyclones, floods and sharks combined, according to a study released this week which found rip currents were far more likely to be deadly than other natural hazards.

Australia is known for its destructive summer wildfires, storms and dangerous predators such as sharks which are common in its waters, but researchers at the University of New South Wales said there was an unheralded killer in the sea.

"Rips account for greater overall loss of human life than other high profile natural hazards," said lead author of the study, coastal geomorphologist Rob Brander.

"Yet they do not get anywhere near as much attention and dedicated funding."

The study, published in the Europe-based journal Natural Hazards and Earth Science Systems, found that rip currents caused an average of 21 confirmed human fatalities per year in Australia.

This compared with 7.5 deaths for cyclones, 5.9 for bushfires, 4.3 for floods and one for sharks, producing a combined total of less than 19.

Rips are strong, narrow currents which pull swimmers away from the beach and can easily carry them well offshore, causing them to become panicked and exhausted --- a state in which they can drown.

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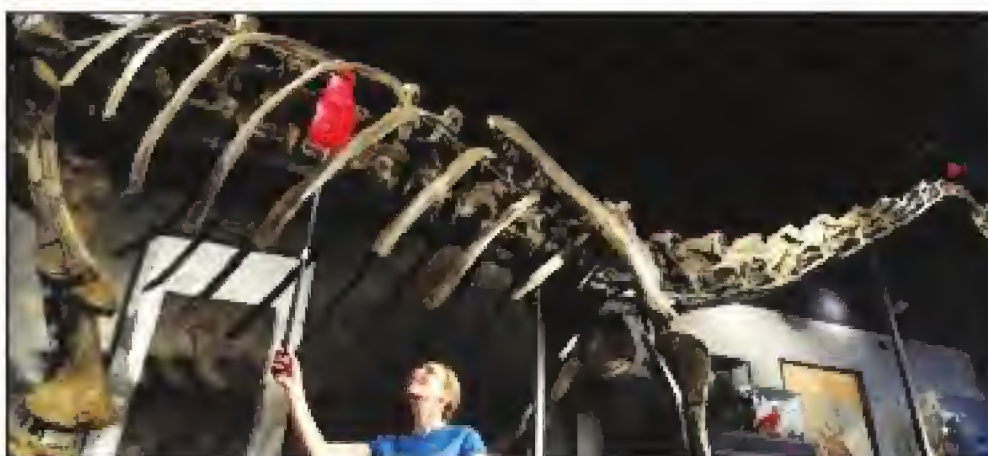
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Misty the dinosaur skeleton sells for £400,000



Misty

LONDON (AFP) - A rare full skeleton of a huge diplodocus dinosaur sold in Britain for £400,000 (\$630,000, 470,000 euros) on Wednesday, an auction house said.

Nicknamed Misty, the 150-million-year-old fossil was bought to go on public display, said Summers Place Auctions in Billingshurst, southern England.

The female skeleton, found in the US state of Wyoming by the young sons of a famed dinosaur hunter, carried an estimate of £400,000 to £600,000.

Spokesman Rupert van der Werff said it was a "truly tremendous object".

"It has been an awful lot of work and a very exciting project, and to finally get to this final conclusion, we are

delighted," he said.

"I can't tell you who bought it but it is going on public display."

The 17-metre-long (56 foot), six-metre-high dinosaur is one of very few full diplodocus skeletons found to date.

Misty was found in 2009 when US dinosaur hunter Raimund Albersdoerfer, who had been taking part in an excavation at a privately owned quarry in Wyoming, sent his sons Benjamin and Jacob to dig in an area nearby.

He was astonished when they returned at the end of the day to say they had found an enormous bone.

Nine weeks later Misty had been dug out. She has since been restored at a laboratory in the Netherlands.

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University Students of Tourism Management

Continued from page 5

In line with the Global Entrepreneurship Week, and in addressing the foregoing challenges and questions, the Government of Aruba (Ministry of Education) in collaboration with the University of Aruba (Faculty of Tourism Management & International Business) and KPMG Dutch-Caribbean organized the first annual Education Summit 2013 last week Friday with the central theme on "Leading Innovation with Education". The summit was well attended by over one hundred executives, directors, leaders and managers in the field of education and training.

During the Summit, several international and local keynote speakers addressed the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in creating sustainable value; and the relevance of leading with innovation and entrepreneurship in a small island service economy, in transitioning towards a knowledge-based economy. Examples of new (social) technologies and (social) modes of learning were presented by Mr. Glenn Tjon (KPMG Dutch-Caribbean), as were changes and developments in educational institutions (high schools, colleges, and universities) by Dr. Robin DiPietro from the University of South Carolina. In addition, two successful local business entrepreneurs, Mrs. Carolina Merryweather-Raven and Mr. Carlos Maduro emphasized the need to innovate educational models and learning by focusing more on the flexibility, creativity and innate talents of young Aruban students and professionals.

Habits of Highly Effective Arubanpreneurship

One of the highlights of the Education Summit was the presentation by Junior-year students of the Faculty of Tourism Management and International Business, and the discussions that followed by those in attendance. Based on an extensive field study of well over 300 en-

trepreneurs and executives, across several tourism and non-tourism service-intensive sectors in Aruba, the students presented their findings on what makes an Aruban entrepreneur effective. In addition, the students outlined and discussed the subtle differences that exist between different types of industry sectors, the role of owning a company, the effect of gender, and the impact of age and generations.

While relative differences do exist in terms of sector, management, gender and generation, the overall conclusions were clear, i.e.: the habits of highly effective Arubanpreneurship reside not in, e.g., fancy investments plans or savvy social media, but in the "deeper attitudes" and "softer skills" that these professionals possess and habitually develop and perfect.

The findings, which are consistent with recent insights on successful innovation leadership, yield ample evidence that the competencies of courage, confidence, (self-) control, questioning, collaboration, creative problem-solving, and cross-functional expertise are the primary habits of highly effective Arubanpreneurship. Not only are these habits highly correlated with professional success, they distinguish to a significant extent the innovation leader from the average pack of entrepreneurs and executives.

Towards the conclusion of the summit, the discussion centered on the changing role, and new responsibility, of (higher) education to foster, enable and stimulate these "deeper attitudes" and "softer skills"; something which is not essential or at the heart of our traditional educational system.

According to Prof. Dr. Ryan Peterson, "the challenges of today, and the opportunities of tomorrow, require a robust and resilient system of education and professional development. We need to equip current and future generations not only with strong basic skills and specialist technical knowledge, but with the attitudes and values to question the status quo, and generate new and sustainable solutions. We need to provide students and professionals alike with the competencies for innovation to a greater degree and depth than ever before. These involve the confidence and creativity to generate new solutions, the motivation, courage and assertiveness to pursue these novel solutions; and the leadership and dynamism to share and infuse innovation collaboratively."

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World Bank says no money for nuclear power

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The World Bank and United Nations yesterday appealed for billions of dollars to provide electricity for the poorest nations but said there would be no investment in nuclear power.

"We don't do nuclear energy," said World Bank president Jim Yong Kim as he and UN leader Ban Ki-moon outlined efforts to make sure all people have access to electricity by 2030.

Kim said \$600-\$800 billion a year will be needed to meet the campaign target of universal access to electricity, doubling energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy by 2030.

In some countries, only 10% of the population has electricity. So far, the campaign has a pledge of one billion dollars from the OPEC Fund for International Development, Bank of America has raised \$500 million through the world's first 'green bond' and Norway has committed to spend two billion kroner (\$325 million) on renewable energy efforts in 2014.

Kim said the World Bank is preparing energy plans for 42 countries that would be ready in June, but said any money raised would only go to new power sources.

"Nuclear power from country to country is an extremely political issue," Kim told reporters.

"The World Bank Group does not engage in providing support for nuclear power. We think that this is an extremely difficult conversation that every country is continuing to have."

"And because we are really not in that business our focus is on finding ways of working in hydro electric power in geothermal, in solar, in wind," he said. "We are really focusing on increasing investment in

those modalities and we don't do nuclear energy."

Kim highlighted private financing for power expansion in Nigeria and Ivory Coast and said efforts were being made to launch a similar deal for Myanmar, where the government has launched major reform efforts.

The World Bank chief said it had been difficult to find long term capital for poorer countries but insisted: "We will show investors that sustainable energy is an opportunity they cannot afford to miss."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Daily Exchange Rates | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Current as of: 11/27/2013 | | | | |
| | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.66 | 1.68 | 1.70 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.84 | 2.89 | 2.95 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 196.66 | 197.38 | 198.18 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 239.96 | 242.15 | 244.59 |
| Sweden | SEK | 26.19 | 26.91 | 27.71 |
| Denmark | DKK | 31.51 | 32.23 | 33.03 |
| Norway | NOK | 28.37 | 29.09 | 29.89 |
| Japan (per 10,000) | JPY | 173.34 | 174.93 | 176.69 |

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COMICS

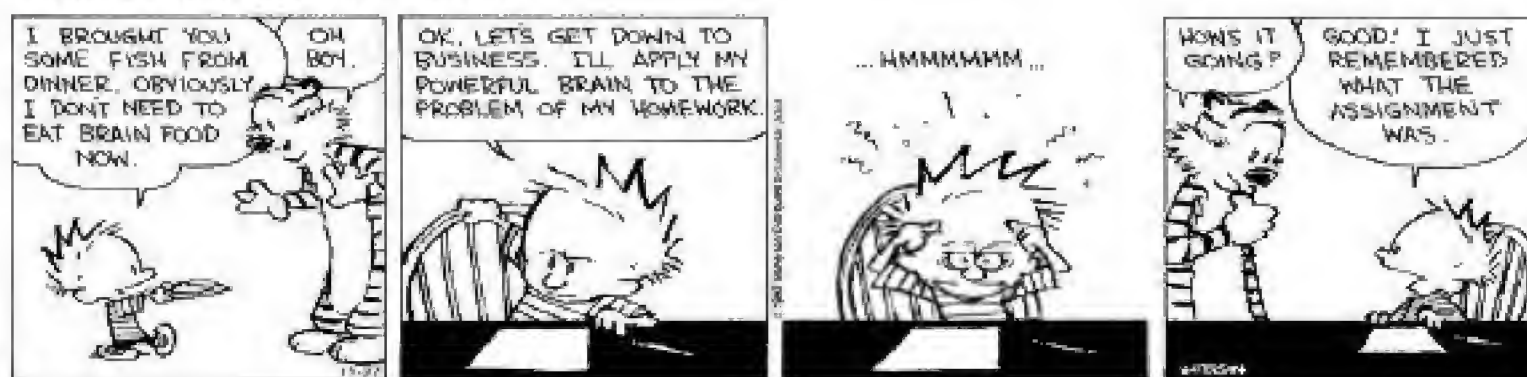
PICKLES



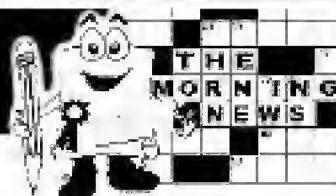
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Split
5 Tomato —
10 Assumed name
12 Force
13 Zero, slangily
14 Smell awful
15 Make do
16 Loathing
18 Harden
19 Young horses
20 Eyelid's action
22 Less wet
24 Grassland
27 Torn and tattered
29 Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
30 Caribbean country
31 Rocker — John
33 Snow abode
34 Aesop story
35 German steel city

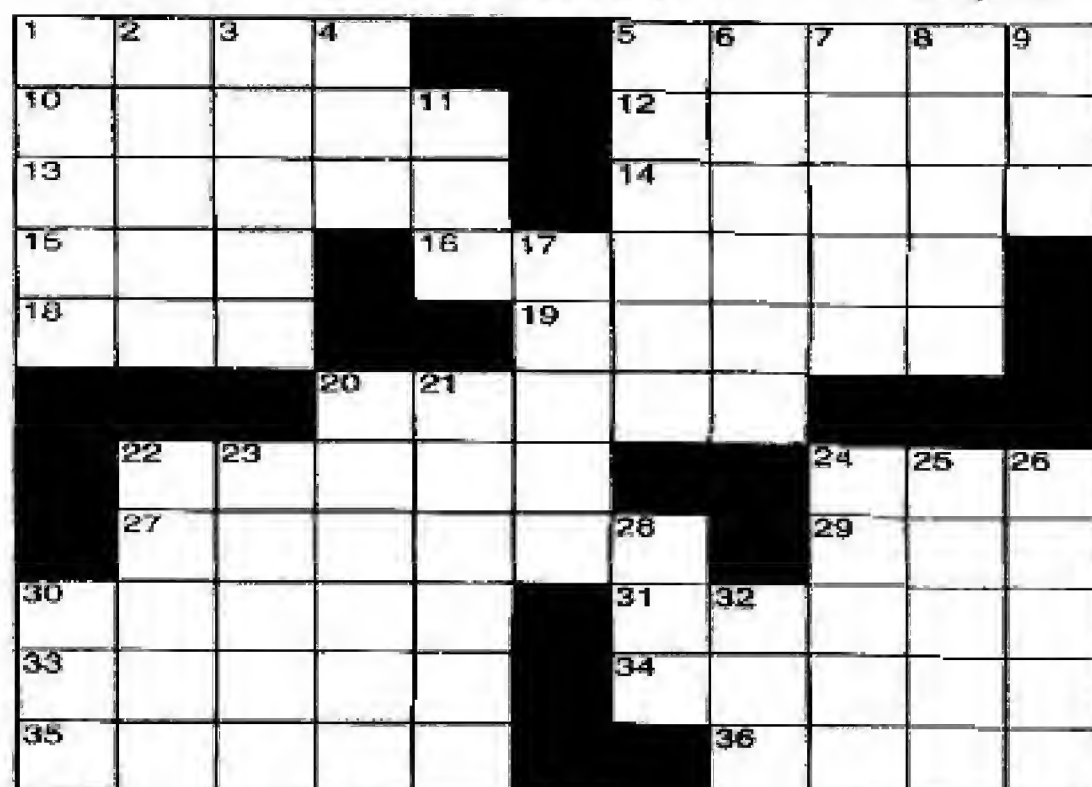
36 Affirmatives

DOWN

- 1 Levels a building
2 "What — About You" (2 wds.)
3 — mignon
4 Sea- (Seattle airport)
5 Engine part
6 Train system

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- 7 Barker's pitch
8 Cares for
9 Moose's kin
11 "Hush!"
17 Aflame
20 It might get stubbed (2 wds.)
21 French Foreign
22 Hauls behind
23 Banisters
24 Leave alone (2 wds.)
25 "— Gay" (plane)
26 De Mille of dance
28 C-G connectors
30 Move quickly
32 Deposit eggs



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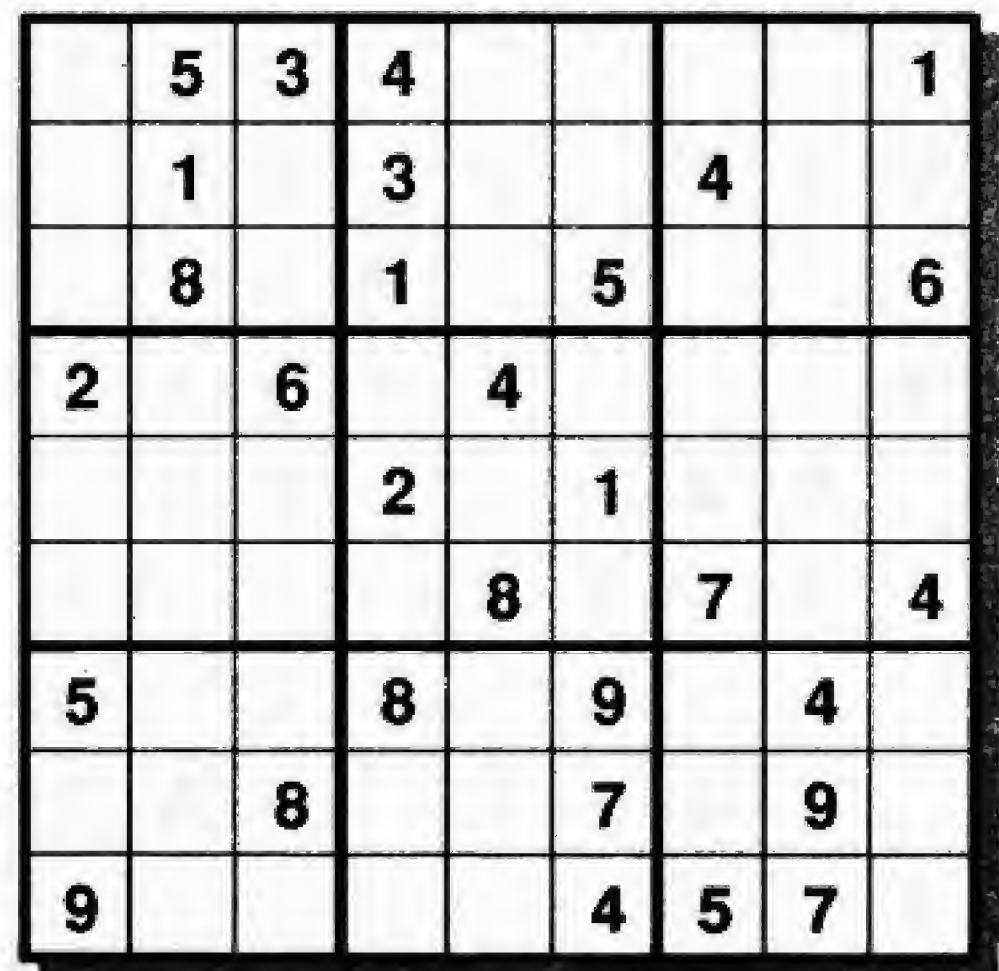
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
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| 7 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



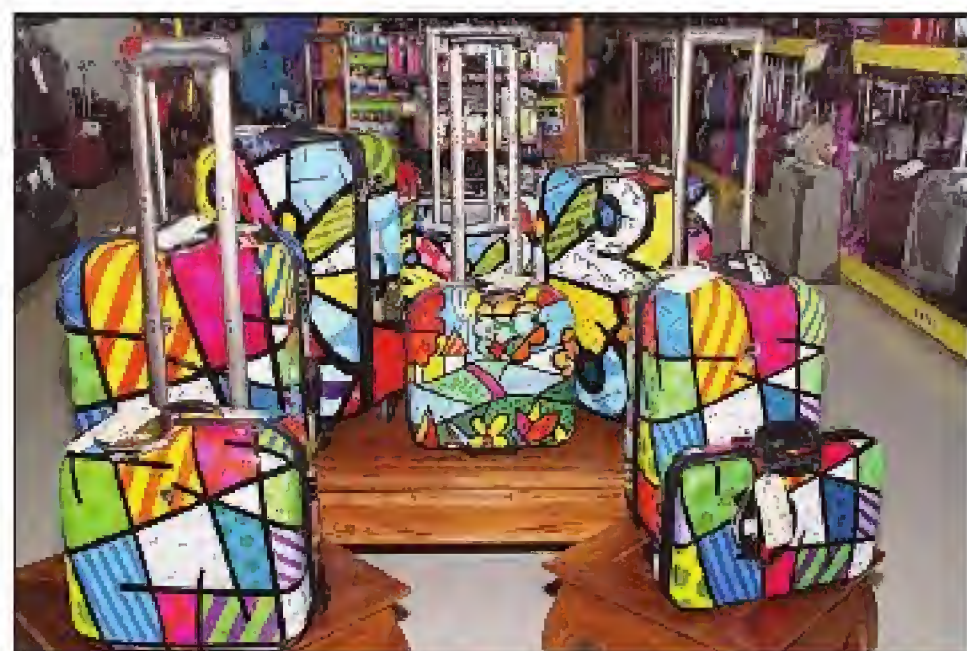
Calman and Anna Hochman

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly fa-

huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store, four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron.

Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces



Delicious Breakfast

of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.



5 Burgers is now open from 8am to 10pm-ish Sunday - Thursday. For those late night diners, 5 Burgers is open until 3AM-ish on Friday & Saturdays! Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!

Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.






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Brilliant United, Real and PSG into last 16

PARIS (AFP) - Manchester United and Real Madrid, with a dozen European titles between them, powered into the Champions League Last 16 on Wednesday as in Russia holders Bayern Munich produced a record-breaking show in the snow.

Also securing their passage to the knockout stages of Europe's premier club competition were French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

This trio join already-qualified Chelsea, Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester City.

That leaves the identity of the final eight teams still to be revealed after the final throw of the first round dice in mid-December.

United produced the performance of David Moyes' short reign as manager since succeeding Alex Ferguson, who beamed down from Leverkusen's stand as goals from Antonio Valencia, Jonny Evans, Chris Smalling, Nani and an own-goal from Emir Spahic left the Bundesliga side bemused.

United go into the closing group game against Shakhtar Donetsk as Group A leaders on 11 points, with Shakhtar up to second, three points behind, after a 4-0 win over Real Sociedad.

In Madrid, a fine free-kick from Gareth Bale set Real on their way to a 4-1 rout of

Galatasaray which guaranteed them top spot in Group B irrespective of what happens in their closing group game.

The nine-time European champions' win was all the more noteworthy given they had to play the bulk of the game with 10 men after Sergio Ramos was sent off.

PSG also lost a man, Marco Verratti leaving the pitch with the second half barely begun, but the French champions held firm to see off Olympiakos 2-1 and finish as Group C winners.

Their star Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrated his 100th Champions League appearance with the opener.

Kostas Manolas drew the Greeks level with nine minutes remaining only for PSG to seal the win with Edinson Cavani's 90th minute strike.

Olympiakos are now in a fight with Benfica, 3-2 winners at Anderlecht, for second place.

In freezing conditions in Russia, Bayern Munich set a new competition record when they defeated CSKA Moscow 3-1 for their tenth successive Champions League win, bettering the old mark set by Barcelona in 2002.

Arjen Robben, one of the scorers, reflecting on Bayern's latest record, said: "We have often said that we don't play for these records, we play to win titles."

Second Annual Open Aruban Sailing Championships Setting Sail Today!



ORANJESTAD -- Today is the starting date of the second annual OAK sailing races. For 4 days straight, sailing competitions will be held from morning till afternoon off the coast of Aruba's stunning beaches. Are you a sailing fan, or just ready to relax and enjoy the day? You can sit back, have a drink and watch the games commence, ending every competition day with a delicious beach BBQ. Last year's successful first OAK, Open Arubaanse Kampioenschappen, brought many surprising winners, and the excitement and expecta-

tions are very high. With at

least 30 different international catamarans, both small and big, the fleet and competition will be bigger, challenging last years' trophy winners even more. Make sure to come and watch international sailing champions Thijs Visser (world champion Formula 18), Thierry Schmitter (silver medallist London) and David Loyd (European and World champion Dart 18). Starting Thursday with competitions along the coast of Malmok beach, in front of Aruba Watersport Center, the 4-day event will end with a bang at Aruba Watersports Center this Sunday, where all the winners will receive their prizes at an official award ceremony. It will be an evening filled event, open to sailors, family, friends.


For more information on the competition locations, and the best views of the catamarans, visit www.arubabeachcats.com.



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McIlroy mentally drained after tough season

Continued from pg 16



"But it was just nice to get back out there today for the pro-am as it's great shape and hopefully after all the rain I hear they've had in Sydney it will dry out and play the way Royal Sydney should play."

McIlroy wound up his preparations by hosting a

clinic for some 250 children, delighting them with an array of shots.

After the enormous scrutiny he faced at the start of the season following his multi-million dollar switch to Nike there was one question he answered without hesitation.

"Are you happy with your decision to switch to Nike?" said the young fan.

McIlroy responded: "It's been a great learning process this year with Nike, and while it did take me a couple of months to get use to the new equipment, it's been great and I could not be happier."

Present on the first tee Wednesday was the famed Claret Jug awarded each year to the winner of golf's oldest Major -- the Open Championship.

The Australian Open marks the first of a number of tournaments, including the Irish, French and Scottish Opens, where the top three players among the leading 10, who are not otherwise exempt, will earn a place in the Open Championship.

The initiative by the St Andrews-based Royal and Ancient Golf Club will do away with international qualifying.

The Australian Open also marks the end of the 2013 Australasian Tour with the leading money winner -- currently Adam Scott -- also gaining exemption to the British Open.

Vonn confident she will ski in Sochi

NEW YORK (AFP) - Reigning Winter Olympic downhill champion Lindsey Vonn said Wednesday she is confident that she will be able to ski at the Sochi Games in February despite being injured in a crash last week.

Vonn told US Olympic telecaster NBC's Today show that tearing a reconstructed ligament in her surgically repaired right knee when she fell at Colorado's Copper Mountain during a training run has not ended her hopes for a strong season and more Olympic gold.

"Unfortunately, it was really bad timing for me, but I'm still confident," Vonn said. "I still feel like I have a lot left to achieve this season. I just have to kind of take it day by day right now, but I still have time before Sochi."

Vonn, the girlfriend of 14-time major golf champion Tiger Woods, was hoping to return to competition in a World Cup event this week at Beaver Creek, Colorado, on



the new Raptor course where the 2015 World Championships will be staged.

Instead, the crash -- which also bruised her shoulders and left her with minor facial cuts -- forced her to skip the US races. She hopes to regain enough stability in her knee to race next week in World Cup events at Lake Louise, Canada.

"I've been doing rehab and I've been progressing every day, but in the next couple of days I'm going to start getting on snow here at Vail and see how it feels and hopefully get

a couple of days of training before I head up to Canada," Vonn said.

"If things go well, I'll be racing next week. If they don't, then I'm going to have to reassess and kind of see where I stand and if I can make a comeback for this season. I'm feeling good from rehab. I feel stable."

"I put some weight on it yesterday as far as doing some weighted balance exercises and doing some squats and things like that, and it felt really good, so I'm very hopeful, but, like I said, I really don't know until I get on snow."

"It's one thing to feel stable while you're doing squats. It's another thing to feel stable while you're actually racing at 90 miles an hour."

Vonn won World Cup overall titles in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012 and with 59 race wins she is three shy of matching the women's World Cup record owned by Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell.

Pacquiao promoter says certified tax paperwork coming soon

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Manny Pacquiao's promoter says he expects certified US tax paperwork for the Philippines boxing hero to be received by authorities in his homeland "very soon" after they froze the fighter's assets.

Bob Arum said that allegations of 2.2 billion pesos (\$50.2 million) in unpaid taxes from US bouts in 2008 and 2009 are false and that his Top Rank agency made certain the proper money was paid to US authorities just to avoid such problems.

"Filipino authorities confirmed that Manny is not required to pay double tax," Arum said in a statement Tuesday. "If Manny paid US taxes for fights and endorsements

that occurred on US soil, he is not required to pay double taxes in the Philippines."

Pacquiao, 34, said Philippine tax bureau officials had rejected the documentation he provided to show payments had already been made to the US Internal Revenue Service, a claim Arum supported.

"For each of Manny's fights that occurred in the United States, including those in 2008 and 2009, Top Rank withheld 30 percent of Manny's purses and paid those monies directly to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)."

"Top Rank has deposit confirmations for each payment. Top Rank has done the same for all US endorse-

ments it has facilitated on Manny's behalf."

But, Arum said, Philippine officials wanted certified paperwork of those transactions from the IRS rather than deposit confirmations.

"Top Rank submitted copies of the EFT deposit acknowledgements to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) as proof of payment. The BIR received the documents but directed Manny to obtain 'certified' documents directly from the IRS itself."

"Obtaining certified copies of documents from the IRS takes time Manny made the formal request to the IRS and we have every expectation that the necessary documents will be furnished to the BIR very soon."

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Sixers to retire Iverson's Jersey number



PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Allen Iverson, who was named the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2001 when he led the Philadelphia 76ers to the NBA Finals, will have his jersey number retired by the Sixers, the team announced Wednesday.

The 76ers will retire Iverson's No. 3 uniform on March 1 in a ceremony before a home game against Washington.

He becomes the eighth 76er to have his jersey retired, joining a group that includes Julius Erving, Charles Barkley, Wilt Chamberlain, Maurice Cheeks, Billy Cunningham, Bobby Jones and Hal Greer.

Iverson was the first player selected in the 1996 NBA Draft and played 10 seasons with the 76ers before stints in Denver, Detroit and Memphis led to a final campaign with Philadelphia ending in 2010.

Iverson, a four-time NBA scoring champion and 11-time NBA All-star, played 10 games for Turkish side Beşiktaş before calling it quits for good, although he did not make it official until last month at a ceremony before the 76ers season opener against reigning champion Miami.

"Allen Iverson is, without question, one of the most iconic players to ever wear the Sixers uniform," 76ers chief executive officer Scott O'Neil said.

"Allen left everything out on the court and no one could ever question his heart. He was relentless, fearless and pound-for-pound, was one of the greatest to ever play the game."

Iverson ranks second in 76ers history in minutes played (29,879), points (19,931), steals (1,644) and free throws made (5,122). His average of 27.6 points a game matched Chamberlain for the highest scoring average in club history.

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McIlroy mentally drained after tough season

SYDNEY (AFP) - World number six Rory McIlroy admitted Wednesday he is mentally drained from a frustrating season where he is yet to win a tournament, with just two more events to go.

The Northern Irishman has only this week's Australian Open in Sydney followed by the Tiger Woods-hosted World Challenge at Thousand Oaks in Los Angeles next week to break the jinx.

His best finishes this year were runner-up spots in the

Valero Texas Open and the recent Korean Open, with the former world number one feeling the pace.

"I'm looking forward to a break after playing Tiger's event next week as it's been a long year mentally for me rather than physically," said McIlroy.

"Physically, golf doesn't take that much out of you but mentally it is quite draining.

"And especially for me this year not just being frustrated with my game but having to answer all the questions and

come up with reasons why I am not playing well and all that stuff," added the former world number one.

"But then it's great to be going into the off-season feeling comfortable with my game and knowing that I am on the right track and knowing that I can start the new season strongly.

"So I am excited about that aspect and besides I still have two tournaments left this year and I would love to get a win, whether it is here or in Tiger's event in LA."

McIlroy last played in Sydney at the 2006 Australian Open as an amateur but failed to break 70 on any of the four days to finish well down the field.

"I can remember most of the golf course but then I can't remember much of how I played that week," he said of Royal Sydney, where he will play the opening two rounds with fellow US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy and PGA Tour member Matt Jones.

Continued on pg 15